(d) The Northern Grid had been operating at a low frequency on account of rise in demand and reduced availability of generation. While the energy requirement and peak demand in Northern Grid during April-June, 2006 increasd by 5.3% and 6.2% as compared to April-June, 2005, the increase in energy availability and peak met in the corresponding period was only of the order of 3.2% and 5.7% respectively. The following measures have been taken by the Government to augment power supply in Delhi:

(i) Ministry of Power has facilitated singing of Memorandum of Understanding/Power Purchase Agreement by Delhi Transco Ltd. (DTL) with Tehri Hydro Development Corporation and NTPC Ltd. for a total of about 1574 MW of power. Delhi is expected to have additional power availability from Tehri HEP (4x250 MW) as well as thermal stations of the Eastern Region in lieu of Tala power (6x170 MW) allocated to Eastern Region constituents, which are likely to be commissioned in phases starting from July/August, 2007.

(ii) All possible assistance is provided from time to time to meet immediate requirements, by way of utilization of capacity of gas-based stations on liquid fuel.

(iii) Financial assistance has also been provided to Delhi under Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme (APDRP) for improvement of sub-transmission and distribution system as a major step towards reduction of aggregate technical and commercial losses.

New nano-biotechnology policy

60. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have designed any new nano-biotechnology policy in order to harness its immense potential in various sectors and work out adequate budgetary allocations for this emerging technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the allocations made/to be made for this purpose during the last two years; and

(d) the amount spent by Government in each category in the field of biotechnology during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology has developed a new strategy for harnessing the immense potential of Nano-biotechnology. The department of Science and Technology recognizing the potential of this emerging, highly interdisciplinary field launched a national programme titled Nanoscience & Technology Initiative (NSTI). The programme had adequate budget provisions and focused at overall research and development in Nanoscience and technology including Nano-biotechnology.

Unter this initiative, close to 110 research projects on the synthesis and assembly of nanoparticles, drug delivery, DNA chips, nano tubes, nano wires, nanoporous solids and nanostructured alloys have been supported. Instrumention facilities have also been created to facilitate characterization of the synthesized materials. A number of shared facilities have also been established. Nine Centres of Excellence have been established in different regions of the country.

(c) and (d) The amount spent under various schemes/categories of biotechnology during the last two years is given below:

Sl. No.	Schemes/Category	Amount Spent:Year-wise (Rupees in lakhs)	
		2004-05	2005-06
1.	Agricultural Biotechnology	1500	1950
2.	Bio-resource Development and utilization	4622	4893
3.	Basic Research in Modern Biology	550	800
4.	Medical Biotechology	2500	3500
5.	Vaccine Research and Development	1000	976
6.	Human Genetics and Genomics	2499	2590
7.	Environmental Biotechnology	600	650
8.	Nanoscience & Technology	2385	4185